



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
**NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE**  
**NORTHEAST REGION**  
One Blackburn Drive  
Gloucester, MA 01930-2298

Dear Permit Holder:

This letter is to inform you of new regulations implementing Framework Adjustment 26 to the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan, effective on February 1, 1999.

For the period February 1, 1999, through April 30, 1999, this action modifies the current April Inshore Closure Area within the Gulf of Maine (GOM) and adds an inshore and offshore closure to protect GOM and Georges Bank (GB) cod, respectively, for the month of February. The current March Inshore Closure Area and the year-round near shore Western GOM Area Closure remain in effect.

The following vessels are exempt from the GOM and GB closures:

- Vessels that do not have a Federal multispecies permit and are fishing exclusively in state waters;
- Charter, party, or recreational vessels; and,
- Vessels fishing with pelagic hook and line, pelagic longline, spears, rakes, diving gear, cast nets, tongs, harpoons, weirs, dipnets, stop nets, pound nets, pelagic gillnets, pots and traps, purse seines, shrimp trawls (with a properly configured grate as defined under this part), surf clam and ocean quahog dredges, and midwater trawls.

A vessel may transit through the GOM and GB area closures provided its gear is stowed properly according to the regulations. Attached is a chart that shows the new closures and the unmodified GOM Closure Areas for the February through April 1999 period. The coordinates are as follows:

**February-Inshore 1999 Closure Area** - This new closure area is closed February 1, 1999, through February 28, 1999:

<u>Point</u>	<u>N. Latitude</u>	<u>W. Longitude</u>
GM1	42°00'	( <sup>1</sup> )
GM2	42°00'	( <sup>2</sup> )
GM3	42°00'	( <sup>3</sup> )
GM4	42°00'	70°00'
GM5	42°30'	70°00'
GM6	42°30'	( <sup>1</sup> )

<sup>1</sup> Massachusetts shoreline.

<sup>2</sup> Cape Cod shoreline on Cape Cod Bay.

<sup>3</sup> Cape Cod shoreline on the Atlantic Ocean.

**February-Offshore 1999 Closure Area** - This new closure area is closed February 1, 1999, through February 28, 1999:



<u>Point</u>	<u>N. Latitude</u>	<u>W. Longitude</u>
GM18	42°00'	67°30'
GM19	42°00'	68°00'
GM20	42°30'	68°00'
GM21	42°30'	67°30'
GM18	42°00'	67°30'

**Inshore Closure Area I** - This existing closure area is closed March 1 through March 31:

<u>Point</u>	<u>N. Latitude</u>	<u>W. Longitude</u>
GM1	42°00'	( <sup>1</sup> )
GM2	42°00'	( <sup>2</sup> )
GM3	42°00'	( <sup>3</sup> )
GM4	42°00'	70°00'
GM5	42°30'	70°00'
GM6	42°30'	( <sup>1</sup> )

<sup>1</sup> Massachusetts shoreline.

<sup>2</sup> Cape Cod shoreline on Cape Cod Bay.

<sup>3</sup> Cape Cod shoreline on the Atlantic Ocean.

**April 1999 Closure Area** - This new closure area is closed April 1, 1999, through April 30, 1999:

<u>Point</u>	<u>N. Latitude</u>	<u>W. Longitude</u>
GM1	42°00'	( <sup>1</sup> )
GM2	42°00'	( <sup>2</sup> )
GM3	42°00'	( <sup>3</sup> )
GM22	42°00'	69°30'
GM7	42°30'	69°30'
GM14	42°30'	69°00'
GM17	43°00'	69°00'
GM9	43°00'	( <sup>4</sup> )

<sup>1</sup> Massachusetts shoreline

<sup>2</sup> Cape Cod shoreline on Cape Cod Bay

<sup>3</sup> Cape Cod shoreline on the Atlantic Ocean

<sup>4</sup> New Hampshire shoreline

**Western GOM Area Closure** - This existing area closure is closed year-round:

<u>Point</u>	<u>N. Latitude</u>	<u>W. Longitude</u>
WGM1	42°15'	70°15'
WGM2	42°15'	69°55'
WGM3	43°15'	69°55'
WGM4	43°15'	70°15'
WGM1	42°15'	70°15'

This letter is a summary only of the approved regulations. To read these regulations in their entirety, you are encouraged to obtain a complete copy of the regulations by calling (978) 281-9278, or by accessing the Northeast Regional Office's website at: <http://www.wh.whoi.edu/ro/doc/nero.html>.